



Department of Justice

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COLUMBUS MAN CONVICTED OF DAUGHTER'S KIDNAPPING, MURDER

COLUMBUS - A United States District Court jury here today convicted John Richard Mayhew, Jr., age 37, of Columbus with kidnapping his daughter, transporting her across state lines and killing her on August 9, 2003. The jury will now consider whether or not to sentence Mayhew to death.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Stanley J. Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division; Columbus Police Chief James G. Jackson; and Christopher Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives announced the verdict returned today before United States District Judge Algenon S. Marbley, who presided over the trial that began on August 1.

Jurors found that Mayhew kidnapped Christina McKibben of Columbus on August 7, 2003. Two days later, he killed her in West Virginia.

The jury also convicted Mayhew of being a felon and transporting a firearm in interstate commerce, transporting an explosive across state lines with the knowledge that it would be used to kill, injure or intimidate others, possessing an unregistered firearm, possessing a firearm without a serial number, interstate domestic violence, and use of a firearm in a crime of violence.

The verdict concludes the first of three phases in the trial. The trial now begins a second phase in which the government will attempt to prove that "aggravating factors" make Mayhew eligible for the death sentence. Aggravating factors specified in the government's notice of intent to seek the death penalty include death during commission of another crime, previous conviction of violent felony involving a firearm, grave risk of death to additional persons, substantial planning, and multiple killings or attempted killings. The defense will have the opportunity to present mitigating factors.

If the jury finds that aggravating factors occurred, the third phase will be the sentencing phase. The U.S. Attorney General has approved U.S. Attorney Lockhart's request to ask for the death penalty during the third phase, if the government is successful in the earlier two stages.

West Virginia law enforcement officers arrested Mayhew on August 9. A Greenbrier County Sheriff's deputy stopped Mayhew for a traffic violation. Mayhew shot the deputy and fled. West Virginia state police later caught Mayhew and stopped his car. Mayhew then shot his daughter and himself.

Lockhart commended the investigative efforts of the FBI, Columbus Police, ATF and state and local law enforcement agencies in West Virginia. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys David DeVillers and Salvador Dominguez who are prosecuting the case.

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